

a² a multi-layer cover assembly including (i) an inner cover layer disposed on said dual core assembly and (ii) an outer cover layer disposed on said inner cover layer, said outer cover layer comprising a thermoplastic polyurethane material, and said inner cover layer and said outer cover layer exhibiting a hardness differential of at least 5, as measured on the Shore D scale.

19. (Amended) A golf ball comprising:

a center core component including a polymeric material and at least one density-increasing filler material having a specific gravity in the range of from about 1.0 to about 20.0;

a³ a core layer disposed about said center core component, said core layer having a composition different than said center core component and free of any density adjusting filler material;

an inner cover layer disposed on said core layer, said inner cover layer having a thickness of from about 0.01 inches to about 0.10 inches;

an outer cover layer disposed on said inner cover layer, said outer cover layer having a thickness of from about 0.01 inches to about 0.10 inches, said outer cover layer comprising a polyurethane material;

wherein the inner cover is harder than the outer cover and wherein the hardness differential between said inner cover layer and said outer cover layer is at least 5 on the Shore D scale.

26. (Amended) A method of forming a golf ball, said method comprising the steps of:

a⁴ providing a density adjusting filler material;
providing a polymeric core material suitable for use in a golf ball core;
mixing said density adjusting filler material and said polymeric core material and forming a center core component;

providing a core layer material having a composition different than the composition of said center core component and free of any density adjusting filler material;

forming a core layer from said core layer material about said center core component;

providing an inner cover material;

forming an inner cover layer from said inner cover material on said core layer;

Q4 selecting a polyurethane material adapted for use in an outer cover layer such that upon curing said inner cover layer and said outer cover layer, the inner cover is harder than the outer cover, the hardness differential between said inner cover layer and said outer cover layer is at least 5; and

forming an outer cover layer on said inner cover layer to thereby form said golf ball.

28. (Amended) The method of claim 26 wherein said step of selecting said polyurethane material is performed by :

Q5 providing an isocyanate component;

providing a component adapted for reacting with said isocyanate component selected from the group consisting of a polyether component, a polyester component, a polyol component, a polyamine component, and combinations thereof;

reacting said isocyanate component and said component adapted for reacting with said isocyanate component to thereby form said polyurethane material.

Please cancel claim 18, without prejudice.

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